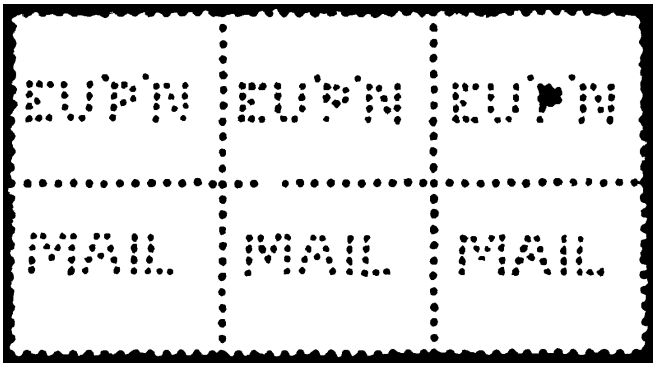
LINE ENGRAVED GEMS

Roy Gault

My postbag in July produced two outstanding items, both from regular correspondents. The first was a spectacular 'Advertising Ring' cover noted in an auction by **Peter Maybury**. The Queen Victoria three-halfpenny stamp is perfinned "WB" (a New Die allocated W0410.23) which has been used as additional postage on an 'Advertising Ring' cover of 'W B Fordham & Son'. It doesn't get much better than this!

The second item came from **Peter Peniket**, an impressive 3x2 block of Queen Victoria 'bantams' (plate 6). The perfin is "EU'P'N/MAIL" (E4920.01M), showing the pattern split between the two rows.



The missing pin in the "P" in the central pattern and other minor variations show the die was multiheaded, hence the addition of the suffix 'M' to the catalogue number. The existence of the die on a 'bantam' also makes it the fifty-third example of a 'Full House'.